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BROOKHAVEN MEDICAL TEAM REPORTS ON 1972 FINDINGS

AMONG MARSHALLESE EXPOSED TO FALLOUT IN 1954

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 BIO-MED, DR. CONARD
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Upton, N.Y. -- Dr. Robert A. Conard (MD) of Brookhaven National Laboratory, head of the medical team that recently returned from its annual examination of the Marshall Islanders exposed to fallout from a 1954 Bikini weapons test, has reported two new cases of thyroid nodules and one case of acute myelogenous leukemia.

Two of the three were among those living on Rongelap Atoll in 1954, site of the heaviest fallout from the test. The third was exposed to fallout on Alingnae.

The leukemia patient is a 19-year old male from Rongelap who had previously been operated on in 1968 in the United States for partial removal of his thyroid and has since been receiving thyroid hormone treatment. This is the first case of leukemia to be found in the exposed population.

The young man's leukemia was suspected following a routine blood examination by the medical team. He returned to the United States with the medical team, arriving at the Brookhaven National Laboratory Medical Center on Friday, September 30, where the initial diagnosis was made. Last week he was moved to the National Institutes of Health Clinical Center for further tests. Following a biopsy on October 10, 1972, the diagnosis was confirmed. He will be treated by a team of leukemia specialists.

The two new cases of thyroid nodules involve an 18-year old and a 22-year old female, both of whom now live on Majuro. Both will be brought to the United States for treatment in the next few months.

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Accompanying Dr. Conard on this year's examination were six medical specialists from the United States in the fields of thyroid physiology, pediatrics, ophthalmology, internal medicine, and radiology, plus three foreign radiological health specialists, one from Great Britain and two from Japan. In addition the medical team was assisted by six medical technicians from the United States and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

The annual medical examinations and treatment of the Marshallese are sponsored by the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission.